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## **Task Force Hammer Paving the Way for 3-10 BCT**

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FOB SHARANA, AFGHANISTAN – Task Force Hammer Soldiers are expanding four Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in the Wardak and Logar Provinces – FOBs Shank, Airborne, Altimur and Joyce – in preparation for the arrival of 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mountain) in Eastern Afghanistan early next year.



**C Company Soldiers Emplace HESCO bastion perimeter at FOB Altimur**

and Full Operating Capacity (FOC). TF Hammer's priorities of work are placement of security (perimeter berm, HESCO bastions, and guard towers), force protection (bunkers and barriers), fuel farms, life support areas, support facilities, motorpool establishment, and trafficable road networks. Additional IOC requirements include establishing the Supply Support Activity (SSA), mortar or artillery firing points, helicopter landing zones (HLZ), forward air refueling point (FARP) and ammunition transfer and holding point (ATHP). FOC adds permanency to the bases, including: command and control structures and tactical operating centers (TOC), maintenance buildings, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) takeoff strips, finished roads, and drainage systems.

A significant amount of the construction effort is contracted, with our Soldiers providing quality assurance of the contracted work. FLUOR is constructing tent floors and life support facilities, installing shower/latrine facilities, dining facilities, laundry rooms, and billeting tents, with full electrical and plumbing. Local national contractors are providing

Many Task Force Hammer units are involved in the 3-10 build-out effort. 74<sup>th</sup> Naval Mobile Construction Battalion is expanding FOB Shank with the help of 68<sup>th</sup> CSE and A Company. C Company, 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, builds facilities at FOBs Joyce and Altimur. Additionally, Headquarters and Support Company (HSC), 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, is constructing FOB Airborne with the help of A Company, and has a battalion command and control node at FOB Shank.

The troop construction efforts are divided into two phases: Initial Operating Capacity (IOC)



**SEABEES from the 4th NMCB install roofing at FOB Shank**

bunkers, barriers, UAV airfield, helicopter pads, wells, pump houses, CL I storage facilities, and concrete maintenance pads.

PFC Karlson, from C Company, is an outstanding member of the construction effort. A recent arrival to the Cobra team, he is with 1st Platoon at FOB Altimur. He has quickly developed his skills as an electrician and become one of the better electricians in the platoon. He eagerly seeks out ways to assist his unit in other aspects as well, often working outside his military occupational skill (MOS). Exceptional efforts like this contribute directly to mission accomplishment.



**An A Company Dozer constructs the berm at FOB Shank**

An integral part of the Headquarters and Support

Company's efforts at FOB Airborne has been the Palerider maintenance recovery team. Under the guidance of shop foreman SGT Dilback, they have conducted eight recovery missions. The missions have included HSC equipment, A/1-506 Infantry equipment and even Afghan contractor equipment. The crew even changed a HMMWV engine in less than 36 hours, which is superb in the difficult conditions of FOB Airborne.

At FOB Joyce, PFC Brann has done excellent work on trusses for the C Company project. He showed his eagerness to learn while the crew put together a truss jig to put the trusses together.



**Equipment Platoon, HSC, installs a drainage culvert at FOB Airborne**

He assisted in the cutting of over 1422 individual truss pieces. He also assisted in cutting 2528 gusset plates to ensure the trusses strength, and in assembling the trusses.

Currently most of the IOC work is completed. While most of the construction went smoothly, it was due to substantial logistical coordination. With only two-and-a-half months notice to complete the mission, TF Hammer quickly shifted assets, while continuing important missions such as winterization. Mission success was amplified by the fact that unit relocation

was made significantly easier through the contracting of additional heavy engineer equipment

(dozers, graders, loaders, and scrapers at each location). Coordination required troop transportation via air and transporting construction toolkits. Some challenges encountered along the way include delays caused by local nationals delivering building materiel, and production and delivery of bunkers and barriers.

In expanding the four FOBs where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division will occupy, Hammer Soldiers are preparing the way for incoming units. By making a substantial impact on living conditions in Afghanistan, Task Force Hammer continues to build the battlefield and make history.